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Message Text

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E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: ENRG OECD
SUBJECT: JAN 19 IEA GOVERNING BOARD-NUCLEAR WORK PROGRAM

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF GOVERNING BOARD CONCLUSIONS
CONTAINING NUCLEAR WORK PROGRAM:

BEGIN TEXT

THE GOVERNING BOARD

(A) HAVING CONSIDERED IEA/GB(77)42 AND IEA/GB(78)3,
APPROVED THE PROPOSED ADDITIONAL PROGRAM OF WORK IN
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NUCLEAR ENERGY:

TASK 1: A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT WILL BE MADE OF ELECTRICITY GROWTH TO 1985 AND BEYOND. THIS WILL INTENSIFY THE PREVIOUS SLT WORK WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE ELECTRICITY SECTOR IN ORDER TO VALIDATE OR ALTER NUCLEAR DEMAND PROJECTIONS. IT WILL INCLUDE AN EXAMINA-

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TION OF ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS WITH VARYING NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPONENTS TO ILLUMINATE THE ROLE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN FUTURE ENERGY BALANCES AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY SHORTFALL.

TASK 2: (FOOTNOTE 1): AN EXAMINATION WILL BE MADE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH GOVERNMENT POLICY CONDITIONS RELATING TO THE SUPPLY OF URANIUM RAW MATERIAL, WHETHER ON THE SIDE OF THE PRODUCER OR CONSUMER, ARE AFFECTING NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT IN THE IEA. INSOFAR AS THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES, MEASURES WHICH MIGHT ALLEVIATE THE DIFFICULTIES WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND EXAMINED.

WHILE ANY SUCH MEASURES WOULD INITIALLY BE EXPLORED WITHIN AN IEA CONTEXT, THEY WOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS EXCLUSIVELY IEA MECHANISMS, BUT RATHER AS DEFINING PATTERNS WHICH COULD ALSO BE MADE APPLICABLE IN A BROADER CONTEXT. IEA WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE OBSERVATION OF ANY SIMILAR ACTIVITY ELSEWHERE, SUCH AS IN THE INFCE, IN ORDER THAT ALL SUCH ACTIVITIES BE AS MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE AS PRACTICABLE.

TASK 3: AN EXAMINATION WILL BE MADE OF THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES WHICH AFFECT THE ACTUAL MINING OF URANIUM RAW MATERIAL TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY ARE IMPEDING OR LIKELY TO IMPEDE TO A CRITICAL DEGREE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPLY OF URANIUM, INCLUDING MARKET AND INVESTMENT CONDITIONS IMPORTANT TO BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. THE OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO IDENTIFY POLICY ACTIONS NEEDED TO PROVIDE SUITABLE FRAMEWORK(S) FOR URANIUM PRODUCTION INVESTMENT.

TASK 4: DETERMINE WHETHER EXISTING URANIUM EXPLORATION PROGRAMS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE WORK OF NEA AND IAEA, ARE ADEQUATE TO ESTABLISH WITH NEEDED ACCURACY THE URANIUM RESOURCE BASE.

TASK 5: (FOOTNOTE 1): AN EXAMINATION WILL BE MADE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH GOVERNMENT POLICY CONDITIONS RELATING TO THE SUPPLY OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES ARE AFFECTING OR ARE LIKELY TO AFFECT CURRENT AND NEAR TERM DECISIONS TO CONSTRUCT NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. INSOFAR AS THEY ARE, MEASURES WHICH MIIGHT ALLEVIATE THE DIFFICULTIES WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND EXAMINED.

TASK 6: WORK WILL BE INITIATED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS IN ORDER TO BE PREPARED FOR SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTING ACTION IF, AFTER APPROPRIATE ENCOURAGEMENT BY IEA, RE-

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LATED EFFORTS IN OTHER BODIES ARE INADEQUATE TO THE PROBLEMS AND THE EVOLVING ENERGY SITUATION SHOULD MAKE SUCH ACTION NECESSARY:

A. CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BACK END OF THE FUEL CYCLE IN THE CONTEXT OF DIFFERING NATIONAL POLICIES AND SITUATIONS OF IEA MEMBER COUNTRIES.

B. DEFINITION OF A MULTINATIONAL DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR LONG TERM DISPOSITION OF SPENT FUEL AND WASTE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE COLLABORATIVE DEMONSTRATIONS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES UNDER VARYING GEOPHYSICAL CONDITIONS.

(B) IN APPROVING THE WORK PROGRAM, THE GOVERNING BOARD
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DIRECTED THAT:

(1) EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED UPON THOSE ISSUES WHICH AFFECT THE ABILITY OF NUCLEAR POWER TO FULFILL ITS NECESSARY ROLE IN MEETING THE OVERALL ENERGY OBJECTIVES OF IEA;

(2) FULL ACCOUNT SHOULD BE TAKEN OF THE WORK BEING DONE BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS, SEEKING NOT TO DUPLICATE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE ADEQUATELY BEING CARRIED OUT, AND WHERE APPROPRIATE, BUILDING ON THEM;

AND NOTED THAT:

(3) THIS WORK PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PRELIMINARY AND EVOLVING AND THAT THE NUCLEAR SUB-GROUP SHOULD HAVE ADEQUATE FLEXIBILITY IN DECIDING WHICH ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AND THE PRIORITY ACCORDED THEM;

(4) TASK 6 IS MORE PROPERLY WITHIN THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WHICH SHOULD HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WORK, COORDINATING WITH SLT AS APPROPRIATE.

(C) NOTED THE STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATE FOR CANADA DISASSOCIATING HIS GOVERNMENT FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD'S DECISION WITH RESPECT TO TASKS 2 AND 5; AND NOTED FURTHER THAT IN HIS STATEMENT THE DELEGATE FOR CANADA SAID THAT: THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION RELATING TO TASK 2 AND TASK 5, AND THE CANADIAN GOVERN-
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MENT WOULD EXPECT TO FOLLOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF TASKS 2
AND 5 AND, AS THEY EVOLVE, KEEP UNDER REVIEW ITS
DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE TWO TASKS.

FOOTNOTE 1: THE DELEGATE FOR CANADA STATED THAT THE
CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DISASSOCIATED ITSELF FROM THE
GOVERNING BOARD APPROVAL OF THE WORK PROGRAM WITH
RESPECT TO TASKS 2 AND 5.

END TEXT
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